



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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MEN OVER 60 URGED TO GET PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING IN SEPTEMBER

Honolulu – Lt. Governor James “Duke” Aiona signed a proclamation declaring September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in the State of Hawaii. Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hanneman and Maui County Mayor Alan Arakawa also signed proclamations for their respective counties urging men 60 and older to get a prostate screening. 705 men in Hawaii will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year. According to the Hawaii Cancer Facts & Figures 2003-2004 Report, 102 of these men will die of prostate cancer.

The State Department of Health, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program is working with cancer stakeholders throughout the state and community based coalitions such as the Hawaii Prostate Cancer Coalition (HPCC) to address specific cancers. “Collaboration of communities, public and private organizations, and individuals have helped with prevention, early detection and educational efforts,” stated Health Director Chiyome Fukino, M.D. “These collaborative efforts help us move closer to achieving our state vision of ‘No More Cancer.’”

The State Department of Health in partnership with the HPCC is urging all men to become informed about prostate cancer risk factors, prevention and early detection testing.

“When it comes to prostate cancer, knowledge is power,” stated Phil Olsen, HPCC President. “HPCC urges all men to check the four high risk factors for prostate cancer (age, race, family history and diet) and speak with their physicians about it.”

Age is the main risk factor for prostate cancer. This disease is rare in men younger than 45. The chance of getting it goes up sharply as a man gets older. In the United States, most men with prostate cancer are older than 65. Also, a man's risk is higher if his father or brother had prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is more common in African American men than in white men, including Hispanic white men. It is less common in Asian men. Some studies suggest that men who eat a diet high in animal fat or meat may be at increased risk for prostate cancer. Men who eat a diet rich in fruits and vegetables may have a lower risk.

For more information on prostate cancer visit www.ustoo.org.

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